

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:OEXC, YO

SUBJECT:FULBRIGHT PROGRAM

REF: A. BELGRADE 7648; B. BELGRADE 7639

1. DEPARTMENT CONCURS WITH EMBASSY JUDGMENT ON DESIRABILITY OF DEFUSING CURRENT CONFRONTATION IN AYEC OVER TRAVEL/ONLY GRANT ISSUE. FACT THAT MOST YUGOSLAV CANDIDATES HAVE ALREADY TRAVELED UNDER THEIR OWN STEAM SUGGESTS THAT YUGOSLAV SIDE MAY BE WILLING TO ACCEPT THIS AS

DE FACTO SOLUTION FOR 1976-77 ACADEMIC YEAR.

2. WE AGREE THAT PORTENTS REMAIN STRONG THAT YUGOSLAVS WILL PRESS HARD ON THIS ISSUE AND OVERALL BALANCE QUESTION IN SUCCEEDING YEARS GIVEN CONTINUING YUGOSLAV INTENTION TO USE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM AS SUBSTITUTE FOR-DECLINING PL-480 SCIENCE EXCHANGE. IN VIEW OUR DESIRE TO MAINTAIN REASONABLE BALANCE IN FULBRIGHT PROGRAM FOR FUTURE YEARS,
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BEST COURSE, AS EMBASSY SUGGESTS, WOULD SEEM TO BE TO TRY

TO REMOVE CONTENTIOUS ISSUE OF TRAVEL/ONLY GRANTS FROM
AYEC AGENDA. WHILE WE WOULD EXPECT THAT EFFORT ALONG
THIS LINE COULD ENCOUNTER CONSIDERABLE RESISTANCE FROM

YUGOSLAV SIDE, WE BELIEVE IT WORTHWHILE TO EXPLORE POS-
SIBILITIES THROUGH COMMISSION.

3. AMONG POSSIBILITIES CONSIDERED IN REFTTEL A, OUR FIRST
PREFERENCE IS FOR PROPOSAL TO RESERVE THESE GRANTS FOR
SUPPORT OF DIRECT UNIVERSITY EXCHANGES. AS EMBASSY
AWARE, WE BELIEVE IT DESIRABLE TO BRING THESE EXCHANGES
UNDER THE AYEC UMBRELLA INsofar AS PRACTICABLE AND THIS
WOULD APPEAR TO BE USEFUL STEP IN THAT DIRECTION. WE
BELIEVE ALSO WORTH EXPLORING EMBASSY SUGGESTION TO USE
TRAVEL/ONLY FUNDS FOR DOLLAR SUPPORT OF FULL GRANTEEES,
BUT WE WOULD NOT BE PREPARED TO MAKE ANY COMMITMENT AT
THIS POINT.

4. REGARDING PARA ELEVEN, BELGRADE 6951, WE RECOGNIZE
THAT RUKAVINA HAS CLEARLY PLAYED ROLE OF SPOILER IN CUR-
RENT DISPUTE OVER PROGRAM BALANCE AND HAS MADE LITTLE
OR NO PRETENSE OF IMPARTIALITY. AT SAME TIME WE SEE
RISKS IN PRECIPITATING OUSTER MOVE AT THIS JUNCTURE AND
BELIEVE BEST COURSE FOR TIME BEING IS TO PURSUE COURSE
OUTLINED ABOVE. KISSINGER

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